



The

# GARzette

The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
April 2015 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 24, Issue 4



## The Georgia QSO Party



Home

About the GQP

Download GQP Flyer

Rules

GQP Awards

How you can help

GQP 2014

FAQ

Log Submission

GQP Tools

Archives

Party Pioneers

Contact us

Countdown to GQP 2015:

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

**Click HERE for the latest GQP info!**

2015 marks the **54th consecutive (nearly) year** that the Georgia QSO Party (GQP) has been challenging amateurs all over the world with the best award/plaque program in the US. IN 2014, 272 amateurs submitted logs vying for the thirty-nine award plaques that were earned.

The GQP is held in a pair of ten-hour sessions on the second full weekend in April; this year that will be **April 11-12, 2015**. Hopefully all 159 Georgia counties will be on the air.

Wondering how you scored in GQP 2014? Click the "[GQP 2014](#)" button on the menu at the left!

Please use the menu buttons on the left-hand edge to learn about the GQP and how you can participate in 2015.

73 and Good Luck from the GQP Committee:

**Norm Schklar WA4ZXV** GQP Chairman

John Laney K4BAI  
Mike Condon NE4S  
Chaz Cone W4GKF  
Rusty Epps W6OAT

Paper Log Manager  
GQP Advisor Emeritus  
Webmaster & Awards Manager  
GQP Founder and Advisor

## Join In The *FUN!*



# Message from the President

Looks like winter has finally given way to spring and it's time to inspect those antennas, do some repair, and get going on those new projects you have been thinking about during the cold months. I've already heard about a couple of antenna parties at members stations. One of the great things about belonging to an amateur radio club is knowing you always can count on friends to help out. Not just in the deployment but in the planning. GARS is rich with members that have years of experience in putting up ham antennas and making them work. Don't be shy. Call on their knowledge and you will receive all the help you could ask for and then some. I know I have done it!

This month GARS coordinates with Gwinnett ARES in a day of radio fun and education. On April 11 ARES will be executing what is known as Deployment Day. ARES members will be doing demonstrations and training including the communications trailer, field antennas, emergency power, and Go-kits. Gars will be utilizing some of the equipment deployed such as the NVIS antenna and generators to kick off the Georgia QSO party that afternoon. We will be "activating" Gwinnett County with the club call W4GR. For more information about the QSO party please go to [www.georgiaqsoparty.org](http://www.georgiaqsoparty.org). We will be set up in the same location that will be used for field in Harbins Park. Hope to see you there.

GARS has lots of other activities coming up soon such as the "Crazy Fox, RDF Adventure" on April 25<sup>th</sup>, and "Satellites in the Park" on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Also one of our yearly fun events is the GARS "May Madness" contest. This is a friendly contest encouraging our members to get on the air and make as many contacts on as many bands and modes as possible with other GARS members. Of course don't forget the Dacula Memorial Day Parade and Field Day. I think GARS may be one of



*"Let's just say we are confident that the best decisions will be made and our primary repeater will be shining again soon."*

the busiest clubs in the Atlanta area if not the Southeast. Check our website for coming events and to volunteer to help at [www.gars.org](http://www.gars.org). There is plenty of opportunity to help out. If you are not a GARS member don't be shy. Come out and participate in our events. I think you will find that you will want to join us.

And just a final note on the GARS repeater situation. We are still in the planning stages of moving the 147.075 machine and we have high hopes that this will be accomplished soon. A new site is being researched which should give us excellent

coverage in the county and beyond. However, many legal and technical hurdles must be crossed before we can start the actual move. Some of these hurdles involve governmental red tape and I'm not saying the government is slow... oh wait. Let's just say we are confident that the best decisions will be made and our primary repeater will be shining again soon. And by the way, the power issues at the Bogan site have all been resolved.

73s,

*Rick,* N4XYY

***"It is not the class of license the Amateur holds, but the class of the Amateur that holds the license."***

[Author Unknown]

# GARS February Meeting

## “Introduction into Amateur Radio Satellites”

By John Kludt, K4SQC

*Tuesday April 14, 2015*

*6:30 pm*

**Sports Aviation Complex - Hangar 1  
690 Airport Road  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045**

[Directions](#)

**See Page 15 for May Meeting Info**

### GARS Communications

#### **Check out the following:**

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| What's Happening?    | Pg 4-5 |
| QSO Party            | Pg 4   |
| SOTA                 | Pg 7   |
| Beginners Corner     | Pg 9   |
| Atlanta Science Expo | Pg 10  |
| GARS Membership      | Pg 11  |
| Contest Info         | Pg 13  |
| Extra Extra          | Pg 15  |

#### 2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz  
82.5 PL Tone

#### APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud  
W4GR

#### D-Star

WD4STR  
145.060 + (1.4 MHz)  
440.550 + (5 MHz)

Main Repeater Site  
Oak Street,  
Lawrenceville

#### 2 Meter Repeater

147.255(+) MHz  
107.2 PL Tone

#### 6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz)  
No PL tone

#### 70 Cm Repeaters

444.525(+) MHz  
82.5 PL Tone  
442.100(+)  
100 PL Tone

Backup Repeater Site  
Lanier Mountain,  
Snellville

**Don't forget  
to support our  
advertisers at the  
back of the  
GARzette.**

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

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If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by email to n4gyn@arrl.net. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

*The GARzette* is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>

Newsletter Editor: Ray Bailey—N4GYN  
770-689-6620 or [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org)





# What's Happening?

## 54<sup>th</sup> Annual GARS Georgia QSO Party!

**When:** April 11 & 12, 2015 - 11AM-6PM local time

**Where:** Harbins Park - 2995 Luke Edwards Road, Dacula. The Lat/Lon are: 33.910833N / 83.852608W

**Map:** <http://goo.gl/maps/M4vU7>

**Who:** ALL area radio amateurs are invited.

Come out and have fun operating with us. We plan to have three stations on air during the GQP operating times when we are on site. This is the GARS/ARES 2015 Field Day location. Lunch will be served. For ARES members, operating at this event counts as a field qualifying event.

**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIR.**

— Pictures from our 2014 GQSO Party —





# What's Happening?

The GARS Monthly Testing Session is this Sunday, April 12th details below.



"Monthly Testing Session" reminder

When:

Sunday, 12 April 2015

01:45 PM to 04:00 PM

(GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US Canada)

Where:

Gwinnett County Fire Station #5, [3001 Old Norcross Road, Duluth, GA 30096](https://www.google.com/maps/place/3001+Old+Norcross+Road,+Duluth,+GA+30096)

*Nick* - AB4CQ

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As a reminder, the current General Class License Exam Question Pool **will expire** this June 30th. The new General Question Pool will be used for all General Class License Exams beginning July 1st. If you have been studying the 2011 - 2015 General Class Question Pool, you will want to take your General Class License Exam between now and June 30th.

73,

*Dave Bruse*, W4DTR

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## **Mobile Hamfest !!!**

04/11/2015 - 8:00 am till 2:00 pm.

Abba Shrine Center, 7701 Hitt Road in Mobile, Alabama.

Admission is \$5.00 - Grand price is a Yaesu FT-897.

For more info, please visit [W4IAX.net](http://W4IAX.net) !!!

## **GARS monthly meeting and program !!!**

04/14/2015 - 7:00 pm - Briscoe Field, Lawrenceville.

I invited Dr. John Kludt, K4SQC, to do a presentation on working satellites. He is a very well known ham in this field and would like to share his knowledge with us.

For more info, please visit [gars.org](http://gars.org) !!!

## **Crazy Fox Hunt !!!**

04/25/2015 - starting time is 10:00 am at Golden Corral.

Come on out for breakfast at 7:30 am and have some crazy fun together.

For more info, please visit [GARS.org](http://GARS.org) !!!

## **2015 May Madness !!!**

05/08/2015 6:00 pm thru 05/17/2015 11:59 pm.

For all the rules and other info, please visit [GARS.org](http://GARS.org) !!!

## **Satellites In The Park !!!**

05/09/2015 12:00 am till 16:00 pm at Bogan Park in Buford. Come on out and bring your satellite gear.

## **GARS monthly meeting and program !!!**

05/12/2015 - 7:00 pm - Briscoe Field, Lawrenceville airport.

Preparation for Field-Day by David Adcock, KA4KKF.

If you like to help or participate in our yearly Field-Day, please come on out and learn how we like to setup and run this cool event on 06/27 + 06/28/2015.

For more info, please visit [gars.org](http://gars.org) !!!

## **Dayton Ham Fest !!!**

05/15, 05/16/ and 05/17/2015.

For more info, please visit [hamvention.org](http://hamvention.org) !!!

## **Memorial Day Parade !!!**

05/25/2015 - 7:00 am till 13:00 at Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula. For more info, please contact Earl, AF4FG !!!

*Thanks to Nick - N4NCQ for providing this list of upcoming events! [Ed.]*

# Thank You Note from EAA

I am attaching a letter I received on behalf of GARS thanking us for our donation in memory of Lnor Levine.

*Sid,* N4NQ



Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 690  
690 Airport Road, Lawrenceville, GA 30046  
770-339-0804 [www.eaa690.org](http://www.eaa690.org)

A 503(c)(3) Chapter

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March 10, 2015

Sid Weaver  
Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30048

Subject: Lnor Levine Donation

The Gwinnett Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 690 (EAA 690) would like to thank you for your donation in the name of Lnor Levine. Lnor was a long time member of the chapter and instrumental in its growth and success over the years. Lnor was very involved right up until the end, having recently participated in our planning session for the chapter's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Lnor was involved in many aspects of the chapter through the years including our Young Eagle program. The monies donated in her name will be directed to our restricted funds account and used to provide scholarship opportunities for young folks interested in aviation.

Randy Epstein  
President  
EAA Chapter 690



# SOTA - Summits On The Air

Some hams don't participate in SOTA out of a mistaken notion that they don't have the necessary equipment/skill/physique. Let's look at some things you do NOT need in order to participate in SOTA.

In order to be an activator, you do NOT need:

- **10,000' mountains.** Even Mississippi has a SOTA summit. It is a lofty 730' at the summit. Georgia has over 130 summits, with none reaching 4800'.
  - **An SUV with 4-wheel drive.** Many trailheads are accessible via paved highways. Others are accessible via roads in good condition. Some do require 4WD, but one ham made it to 74 different summits in the southeast in an 'all-terrain' Corolla.
  - **Topographic maps, bushwhacking or mountain-climbing skill.** There are detailed directions on how to reach *many* summits. Most of those summits are accessible via clear hiking trails. Some are reached 100% via *roads*. A few will require a bushwhack.
  - **Hiking boots.** Boots are nice for some trails. However, some 'trails' are paved and others are a short walk on an easy trail, and sneakers are plenty good. Some of the most remote summits in Georgia have been reached in nothing more than 5 year-old jogging shoes.
  - **Good physical conditioning.** If you're thinking, "I really need to get in better shape before I try activating," consider a drive-up or a nearly drive-up summit. If you can participate in Field Day, you've got the stamina to activate several summits in the southeast. There are summits you can activate even if you're in a wheelchair! (Email me if you're in this category and you want to know how.)
  - **An expensive specialty radio.** If you own a solid-state rig and you can carry it and a battery across a parking lot, you've got the radio you need. You can activate many summits with nothing more than an HT. If you're a CW operator, you can activate with a "Tuna Tin" or other cheap kit. Shucks - you don't even really need to own a radio. Email an activator and ask if you can tag along on an activation and use his radio.
  - **An entire day.** If you're in the Atlanta area, there are at least 3 different summits which could be activated in a morning or an afternoon. (If you've got a whole summer day, you could go for the full set!)
  - **CW skills.** There are activators who reach Mountain Goat using SSB.
  - **Fast CW skills.** I struggle at 13 WPM. There are guys who go out at 10 WPM. You might put off a few chasers at 5 WPM, but I'd be surprised if you couldn't get 4 chasers at 5 WPM if you have a strong signal.
  - **Great operating skill.** My first QSO was a SOTA activation. I can assure you (as can the chasers) that I was inept. (Shucks, I'm barely 'ept' now.)
- A fancy antenna.** If you have a tuner or an ATU, just throw 29' of wire in a tree and lay out a similar counterpoise. One of the most popular SOTA antennas is an EFHW, such as the PAR Trail-friendly.
- **A General Class license.** There are successful VHF activators.

In order to be a chaser, you do NOT need

- **A beam at 60'.** OK. I'll admit that this *helps*. However, you can be a successful chaser with an NVIS on 40 meters. With a better antenna, you can chase activators around the world. With a lesser antenna, you just stick to activators closer to home.
- CW (or SSB).** There are activators who work strictly CW, activators who work strictly USB, and there are activators who work both. You'll have more opportunity if you can run both. You'll even find a *few* activators who can work PSK31 or RTTY. (There are some CW-only activators, because the smallest radios are CW-only.)
- **Fast CW skills.** A slow chaser will struggle more than a slow activator. If the activator calls CQ at 10 WPM, everyone answers at 10 WPM. If you're a slow-CW chaser and you tune in to a 25 WPM activation, you're not



(Continued on page 8)



# SOTA - Continued

(Continued from page 7)

going to be able to tell who's who. But... Pick up the activator's call sign from SOTAWatch, and just wait until the beeping mostly stops, and send your call sign at your speed. Most activators will respond at your speed. (Some of them have keyers that make this tough, so you might get fast characters with BIG spacing.)

- **A General Class license or an HF rig.** (See activator non-needs.) If you're chasing VHF or 10 meters, be sure and contact the activator in advance, and ask him to work your band. If you have a VHF beam 30' AGL in north Georgia, you could be a *very* popular chaser. There is a shortage of chasers working VHF in this area, and there are activators who would love to carry only an HT.

- **A ham license.** What??!! It's true. There is an SWL category in SOTA for non-hams. No excuses! You have what you need to participate in SOTA.

See you on the summits! 73 DE K4KPK / Kevin

## Where can I find out more?

- Official site: <http://sotadata.org.uk/>
- Mailing list: <https://groups.yahoo.com/groups/summits>
- K4KPK's site: <http://k4kpk.com/content/sota-menu>  
Email me (K4KPK). My email address is available via <http://www.qrz.com/db/K4KPK>.

## Bio

K4KPK, Kevin Kleinfelter is Georgia's first SOTA Mountain Goat. His first QSO was on a backpacking trip to a 5300' summit with his 12 year-old son. He has more than 125 activations in the southeast.

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# HAMCRAM CLASS EXAM SESSION RESULTS

**We had an excellent exam session last Saturday March 28. 15 out of 17 applicants passed.**

## Ham exam session results:

- 14 new Technicians
- 1 new General (passed Technician and General)

## Thanks to the VE's who made this exam session possible:

- |                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| - Dave Bruse, W4DTR (CVE) | - Mark Fehlig, WA6NGC (Co-CVE) |
| - Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN    | - Nick Doemland, AB4CQ         |
| - John Davis, WB4QDX      | - Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC       |
| - Karen Whited, KJ4VQI    | - Rick Cobb, N4XYY             |
| - Larry Whited, WB4FGF    | - Sid Weaver, N4NQ (Co-CVE)    |

***I would like to add that John and Ralph did another excellent job teaching a long, one-day class and should be applauded for getting another 15 people licensed into the Ham Radio Community!***

Thanks & 73,

*Dave Bruse,* W4DTR

Email: [exams@gars.org](mailto:exams@gars.org)



# Beginner's Corner

## Streaming Amateur Radio Programs - Part 1

This month's column is relevant for both new and veteran hams. We are very fortunate in the Internet Age that we are able to watch programs about amateur radio on streaming video. Here are the ones I know of:

Amateur Radio Round Table: <http://w5kub.com>

This is a new streaming video program. It has only been around for a few weeks as of this writing. W5KUB has streamed the Huntsville Hamfest for several years, and has recently streamed live coverage of the Dayton Hamvention. They go out live Tuesdays at 9 pm ET. You can see archives of past programs on the web site. Here is a screen print of the program I just watched.



**HAMRADIONOW.tv:**

<http://arvideonews.com/hrn/>

or <http://hamradionow.tv>

A streaming program that has been around for a long time. It, too, is not a slick professional production, but it does cover a variety of topics. They are up to Episode 191. Gary Pearce, KN4AQ is the moderator. Many programs are produced in his studio, but he occasionally travels to hamfests and other Amateur Radio related functions. Some of the programs are slow, but again there is a wide variety of topics. Here are some of my favorite episodes:

Episode 101: A Tale of Two Emcomm (vehicles)

Episode 135: WW8N Tower Case

Episode 137 Part 1: K9W Wake Atoll DXpedition

Episode 137 Part 2: FT5ZM Amsterdam Island DXpedition

Episode 165 PART ONE: On the Road (Home)

Episode 171: Ham Radio at the State Fair

Episode 137, the Wake Island presentation is my all-time favorite, and the Amsterdam Island one is my second favorite.

We had a presentation on Amsterdam Island in GARS last year. For those of you who missed it and would like to see it again, the presenter is different, but the presentation is quite similar. Wish I could have gone on one of those DXpeditions!

I have run out of space for this month, so I will continue with this topic next month.

73,

*David* - KJ4CMY



# Atlanta Science Expo



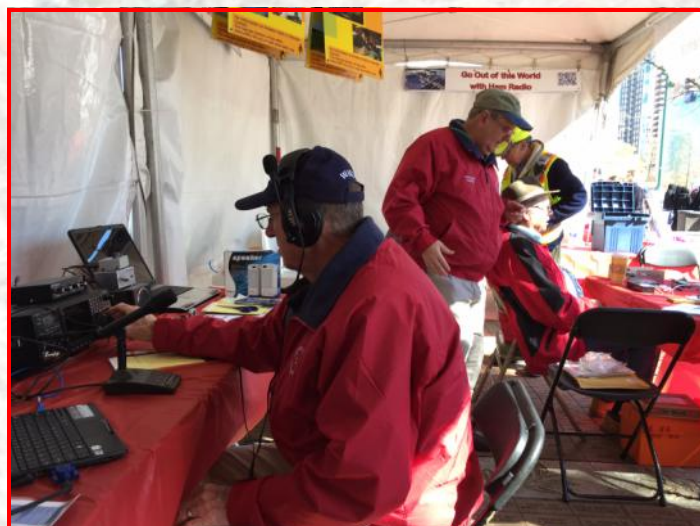
Working off the success of our efforts at the Maker's Faire in Decatur last fall, a group of local Ham Radio clubs got together to present our hobby to science students, teachers, and parents at the Atlanta Science Expo. The Expo was held Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at Centennial Olympic Park. Participating in the event were members of GARS, North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL), Atlanta Radio Club (ARC), Alford Memorial Radio Club, Martha Muir (ARRL) and the Mill Springs Academy Radio Club.

At a pre-event planning meeting the possibility of the audience being somewhat younger than what attended the Maker's Faire caused us to consider a different approach to our effort. It was decided to work the Expo much like a trade show where the experts would work displays inside our booth, while 2 or 3 of us would work just outside the booth to capture and direct attendees into our booth. As it turned out, while the younger students were visiting the inside of our booth, we were discussing Amateur Radio with the parents and teachers outside of the booth. The strategy worked great. By our estimate we visited with between 300-500 attendees.

Our displays included bead bracelets (where students could make bracelets of their names in Morse code), Satellite Communications, Digital Communications, HF Radio, and CW. The most popular display by far was Jim Stafford's (NFARL) presentation of DIY QRP rigs.

Much thanks to the following GARS members for making this event a success: Norm Schklar - WA4ZXV, Chairman; Paul Kelly - W4KLY, HF SSB; Nick Doemland - AB4CQ, "Hooker."

*Ralph Pickwick,* KJ4CNC "Hooker"  
Education Chairman





# GARS Membership Page

## New GARS Members in March

**WILFRED KIRK (KM4HZO)**

**New Members: 1**

**Total Members as of April 1, 2015  
- 282-**

**Join us for our weekly  
breakfast gathering at  
7:30 AM most Saturdays at:**

**Golden Corral  
2155 Riverside Parkway  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043**

**([Directions](#))**

**The following members are  
celebrating birthdays  
in April:**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!  
From All of Us at GARS**

**Charles Adams (KV4VT)  
Cristopher Bagby (KM4BOP)  
James Boyd (KJ4YN)  
Paul Branson (KA4YZR)  
Doris Brown  
Charles Burts (K4CHB)  
Woo Chang (KM4GSL)  
Scott Deitchman (WB8ICQ)  
Chet Dickenson (KM4FMO)  
Anna Dominguez (KF4UOC)  
Dozier Griffith (WA4DEO)  
Stan McDonald (KI4H)  
James McGinty (AF4CF)  
Michael Parrott (N4MEP)  
Collin Pike (KJ4AXB)  
Phil Smith (K4PWS)  
Herbert Stanton (KM4FNA)  
Steven Wisenburg (KM4CVU)  
Christopher Zastrow (KK4FNO)**

## **GARS MEMBERSHIP**

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter email towards the bottom of the message.

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new email address, new phone number, etc.), please email the Membership Committee - [membership@gars.org](mailto:membership@gars.org)

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP  
Committee Members: Richard Atkin, KJ4ZTY

# Net Managers Corner

## Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

### GARS NEEDS YOUR HELP

**GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club** and we have the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is a very busy and active club and we use the Monday night net to get the information out to our members. We need weekly participation to make our net function and to keep them interesting. We have a very small group of very dedicated people that make the net happen each week but we need more help.

Out of over 299 members we have only nine primary people that run the net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Norm - WA4ZXV  | Mitch - N0DIM  |
| Hal - W4IGE    | Don - KW4AL    |
| Ray - N4GYN    | Sandy - KJ4DRO |
| John - WB4QDX  | Bill - KK4AUA  |
| Kevin - KK4WOG |                |

I need 40 people to fill NCS and ANCS positions. The schedule is planned and posted months in advance and is flexible. If your plans change we can and do make adjustments to make it work, and I make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. I also send out reminders each week to let you know you are scheduled for the next Monday night net. In short, we make it simple. All you need to do is show up, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record-keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact me at the monthly GARS meeting or, send me a message via the [Mentors & Elm-ers](#) page on the web site at [www.gars.org](http://www.gars.org). Sign up to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is.

73’ See you on the Nets!

*Phil McCleary*, N4LNE

Net Manager



**Don’t miss the “KNOW IT ALL” Net  
Wednesday nights, 8:30-9:30 pm**



We have moved to a new format. We begin with current events and announcements. Then we Introduce New Technology. Then we have check-ins and general discussion. Post net is Rag Chew format.

*Jeff*—AB4HF

Everyone is having great fun on this net! Come join us and become a “KNOW IT ALL”.

**TIME: 8:30 every Wednesday evening on the GARS repeater - 2m 147.075 +, PL 82.5**  
**6m 53.110 - No Tone**  
**70cm 442.100 + PL 100.0**



## ARRL CONTESTING INFO

>>>> NOTE: For more information click the links <<<<

### April

19 [Rookie Roundup – Phone](#)

### June

13-15 [June VHF](#)

20 [Kids Day](#)

27-28 [Field Day](#)

### July

11-12 [IARU HF World CHampionship](#)

## ROOKIE ROUNDUP - PHONE:

- [Mission & Objective-](#)

**Mission:** To encourage newly-licensed operators (“Rookies”) in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators (“Non-Rookies”) are strongly encouraged to participate and help new operators – either on the air or in person.

**Objective:** Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF

## JUNE VHF:

### [Mission & Objective-](#)

For amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada.

Stations in KH0-9, KL7 & KP1-KP5, CY9 and CY0 count as W/VE stations and can be worked by DX stations for contest credit.

## KIDS DAY:

Twice a year, ARRL offers an event designed to promote Amateur Radio to our youth. Share the excitement with your kids or grand-kids, a Scout troop, a church or the general public!

Kids Day is designed to give on-the-air experience to youngsters and hopefully foster interest in getting a license of their own. It is also intended to give older hams a chance to share their station and love for Amateur Radio with their children.

## HAMFEST CALENDAR

### Southeast US

#### 04/25/2015 | [Calhoun Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Sugar Valley, GA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://www.k4woc.com>

#### 05/02/2015 | [Thomasville Tailgate](#)

**Location:** Thomasville, GA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Thomasville Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://thomasvilleamateurradioclub.com/>

#### 05/02/2015 | [Blue Ridge ARS's 56th Annual Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Spartanburg, SC

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://brars.org>

#### 05/30/2015 | [Fort Payne Tailgate / Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Fort Payne, AL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** DeKalb County (Alabama) Amateur Radio Club

#### 06/06/2015 | [Georgia State Convention \(Atlanta Hamfestival\)](#)

**Location:** Marietta, GA

**Type:** ARRL Convention pending Executive Committee approval

**Sponsor:** Atlanta Radio Club & Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.atlantaHamfest.com>

#### 07/25/2015 | [Cullman ARC Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Cullman, AL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Cullman Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <https://www.facebook.com/CullmanARC>

## BSA Venture Crew 73 Wants You!

IF YOU are between 14 and 21 years old, enjoy outdoor activities, and have an interest in radio technology, **Venture Crew 73 is for you.**

- Venture Crews are part of the Boy Scouts of America.
- *Venture crew 73 is chartered by the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society.*
- Venture crew 73 is coed.
- *Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm, at EAA 690 Hangar at:  
Briscoe Field - Sports Aviation Complex  
Hangar 1, 690 Airport Road  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045*
- Crew 73 is a youth-run organization, which means that our Crew President and other youth plan the Crew's outings and activities each month.

*We enjoy:*

- ◊ *Camping*
- ◊ *Hiking*
- ◊ *Horseback Riding*
- ◊ *Shooting Sports*

- Crew activities usually mix high adventure and the use of Amateur Radio.
- For more information, attend our next meeting or contact:

**Steve Back, WB2OGY**

Venture Crew 73 Committee Chairman

Phone: 770-712-9069

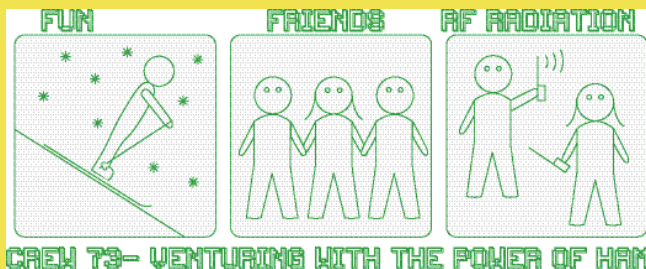
Email: [committeechair@venturecrew73.org](mailto:committeechair@venturecrew73.org)

**Jeff Lee, AF4JL**

Venture Crew 73 Advisor

Phone: 678-475-3165

Email: [advisor@venturecrew73.org](mailto:advisor@venturecrew73.org)



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Rick Cobb, N4XYX  
President



Mike Weathers, ND4V  
Vice President



Nick Doemland, AB4CQ  
Secretary



Sid Weaver, N4NQ  
Treasurer



Nick Nickley, N0NCQ  
Program Manager



Karen Albritton, KI4HPP  
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Webmaster, Field Day Chair



Dorothy Jubon, N2DLJ  
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Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC  
TechFest Chair, Apparel Mgr



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Technical Advisor



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Kyle Albritton, W4KDA



David Adcock, KA4KKF



Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV





## EXTRA! EXTRA!

### MAY GARS MEETING

#### *“Logging - Search & Pounce - Preparation for Field Day”*

By David Adcock, KA4KKF

NVIS: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Near\\_vertical\\_incidence\\_skywave](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Near_vertical_incidence_skywave)

SDRSHARP Tutorial Video:  
<http://www.rtl-sdr.com/sdrsharp-video-tutorial/>

#### - ANTENNA PARTY -

*I want to thank* Larry - WB4FGF, Karen - KJ4VQI, and Rich - K7SZ, for their help on Saturday. We battled a stiffer wind, lower wind chill temps, and a much less prepared N4KD than was expected. Despite my best efforts at delay, the beam is now up and working really well.

*For the first time*, I was able to work 12 meters and I worked a V7 in the Marshall Islands! Not the best signal, but way better than I could do with the doublet.

Thanks again folks. Very 73,

*Dave*, N4KD

### GARS Recurring Calendar

- ♦ Monthly club meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7 pm
- ♦ Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net + 8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ♦ Every Wednesday at 8:30 pm: GARS Know It All Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ♦ Every Saturday at 7:30 am: GARS Weekly Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville

## MEETING MINUTES

Rick, N4YXX, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

First time visitors were welcomed and roundtable introductions made. Ticket upgrades were recognized.

*NOTE: 73 attendee's were present*

Sid, N4NQ, gave the treasure's report. Voting took place and the treasure's report was approved

Karen, KI4HPP, gave the membership report: GARS has 301 members.

*NOTE: Rick reminded us that our designation as a “Special Service Club” requires that 50% of membership also be an ARRL member (GARS receives a portion of the sign-up and renewal fee. see Sid, N4NQ for details)*

Nick, N0NCQ, announced upcoming programs:

The April program will focus on Satellite communications by special guest speaker Dr. John Kludt.

Repeater Update - we are still investigating locations, temporary placement will be Snellville. Reminder the following services will be unavailable during this transition; Remote receivers, EchoLink, 6 meters, and APRS I-Gate, courtesy tones will also be unavailable.

Mike, KK4KHS, advised that a 220 machine is operational on Stone Mountain, you can access it at 224.760/PL100/Negative offset

#### UPCOMING EVENTS were announced:

##### **Crazy Fox Hunt**

Date: April 25<sup>th</sup> Time: 10:00am to 2:00pm

Location: Golden Corral, 2155 Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville

##### **May Madness**

Date: May 8<sup>th</sup> through May 17<sup>th</sup>

Time: begins 6pm May 8<sup>th</sup> and runs through 11:59pm on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

[More information on the GARS website]

##### **Satellites in the Park**

Date: May 9<sup>th</sup> Time: 12:00pm to 4:00pm

Location: Bogan Park, 2723 North Bogan Park Road, Buford

##### **Dacula Memorial Day Parade**

Date: May 25<sup>th</sup> Time: 7:00am to 12:00pm,

Location: Herbon Baptist Church, 202 Hebron Church Road, Dacula

##### **Field Day**

Date: June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

Location: Harbins Park, 2995 Luke Edwards Road, Dacula

#### Break

#### Program

ARES in Gwinnett and how you can help, presented by Gwinnett ARES Emergency Coordinator, Hal Collier, W4IGE

#### Raffle

Meeting concluded at 9:20pm

*Nick*, AB4CQ, Secretary

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### Where Did “CQ” Come From?

The letters CQ were brought to the English telegraph well over 100 years ago. This signal meant “All Stations.” The telegraph call CQ was born on the English telegraph over a century ago as a signal meaning “All stations. A statement to all postal telegraph offices to receive the following message.” This term originated on the landlines, and was later used by the Marconi Company on radio as a general call to its ships. At the same time other companies were using “KA” as a general call. The London Convention of 1912 adopted CQ as the international general call signal. To most radiomen CQ meant an “attention” signal. Where did the letter combination come from? The French *sécurité*, (safety or, as intended here, “pay attention”). Sometime later, the amateur origin of the abbreviation was changed to the phrase “seek you.”

Source: “Percy, Clarence, QST And The ARRL, Before, During and After the Birth of Amateur Radio” by Larry Telles, K6SPP, who credits the original source as Jim Maxwell, W6CF, “Amateur Radio: 100 Years of Discovery,” QST Magazine, January 2000.

*I am hoping that these articles will spark some interest within our members to support the ARRL if they are not already members, and possibly get more members active in HF communications.*

*Paul Kelly*, W4KLY

*Watch for more stories like this in upcoming issues. [Ed.]*

### GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR APRIL 2015

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY                              | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY                                       | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY   |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|----------|--------|--|
|   |                                     |  | 1<br>8:30 - 9:30 pm<br>GARS<br>Know-It-All Net  | 2        | 3      | 4<br>7:30 - 9:30 am<br>Breakfast at<br>Golden Corral<br>Riverside Drive  |
| 5   | 6<br>8:00 - 8:30 pm<br>GARS 2m Net  | 7<br>6:30 - 8:00pm<br>GARS Exec<br>Meeting   | 8<br>8:30 - 9:30 pm<br>GARS<br>Know-It-All Net  | 9        | 10     | 11<br><b>GA QSO Party<br/>11:00 am to<br/>6:00 pm</b>                    |
| 12<br><b>GA QSO Party<br/>11:00 am to<br/>6:00 pm</b> | 13<br>8:00 - 8:30 pm<br>GARS 2m Net | 14<br>5:00 - 6:30 PM<br>Dinner at Flying<br>Machine<br>7:00-9:00pm<br>GARS Meeting | 15<br>8:30 - 9:30 pm<br>GARS<br>Know-It-All Net | 16       | 17     | 18<br>7:30 - 9:30 am<br>Breakfast at<br>Golden Corral<br>Riverside Drive |
| 19  | 20<br>8:00 - 8:30 pm<br>GARS 2m Net | 21   | 22<br>8:30 - 9:30 pm<br>GARS<br>Know-It-All Net | 23       | 24     | 25<br>7:30 - 9:30 am<br>Breakfast at<br>Golden Corral<br>Riverside Drive |
| 26  | 27<br>8:00 - 8:30 pm<br>GARS 2m Net | 28   | 29  | 30       |        |  |



| Metro Testing Sessions  | Ham Exam Results   | Metro Club Meetings   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><i>GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at <a href="http://www.arrl-ga.org">http://www.arrl-ga.org</a>.</i></p> <p><b>First Sunday, ODD Months</b><br/> 2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, &amp; Nov)<br/> VEC: WCARS<br/> Braselton Public Utility Building<br/> 4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA<br/> Roger Gibson, WB4T<br/> (770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560<br/> <a href="mailto:w4rlg@bellsouth.net">w4rlg@bellsouth.net</a></p> <p><b>First Sunday, EVEN Months</b><br/> 2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)<br/> VEC: WCARS<br/> Hall County EOC<br/> 470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga.<br/> Perry Roper, KO4RD<br/> (770) 536-3056</p> <p><b>Second Saturday</b><br/> 10:00 AM<br/> Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center<br/> 13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004<br/> Ian Kahn, KM4IK<br/> E-mail: <a href="mailto:km4ik.ian@gmail.com">km4ik.ian@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Second Saturday, ODD Months</b><br/> VEC: ARRL<br/> 8:30 a.m.<br/> GMC Community Ctr<br/> 5325 Leon St.<br/> Stone Mountain, GA<br/> Frank Haynes, KV4SP<br/> (678) 467-3712</p> <p><b>Second Sunday</b><br/> VEC: W5YI<br/> 2 pm<br/> Gwinnett County Fire Station #5<br/> 3001 Old Norcross Road<br/> Duluth, GA 30096<br/> Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR<br/> Email: <a href="mailto:exams@gars.org">exams@gars.org</a></p> <p><b>Third Saturday</b><br/> VEC: W5YI<br/> 2 pm (Except December)<br/> Lifeway Church<br/> 1654 Atlanta Highway #109<br/> Steve Donellan, N5SMD<br/> (404) 520-0368<br/> Email: <a href="mailto:n5smd@comcast.net">n5smd@comcast.net</a></p> <p><i>(cont. next column)</i></p> | <p><b>We had a nice turnout Sunday, March 8, for our VE session.</b></p> <p>Ten people tested and nine passed exams:</p> <p>6 - New Technician Class<br/> 2 - Upgraded to General<br/> 1 - Upgraded to Extra</p> <p>Thanks to the following VE's:</p> <p>Don Bagby, KK4NJM (Co-CVE)<br/> Mark Fehlig, WA6NGC (Co-CVE)<br/> Frank Haynes, KV4SP<br/> Robert Pursley, WD4KQQ<br/> Harold Prosser, KK1B<br/> Mitch Matteau, N0DIM<br/> Rick Cobb, N4XYX<br/> James Webb, W4NTA</p> <p>73,</p> <p><i>Don Bagby</i>, KK4NJM<br/> Email: <a href="mailto:exams@gars.org">exams@gars.org</a></p> <p>GARS VE Website:<br/> <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GARS_VE_Team/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GARS_VE_Team/</a></p> <p><b>Fourth Tuesday</b><br/> ARRL VEC<br/> 7 pm @ United Way Service Center<br/> 6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville<br/> Jessie Clower, KB4WFK<br/> (770) 942-6466</p> <p><b>Fourth Sunday</b><br/> 2:30 pm Georgia Tech<br/> VanLeer Elec. Building<br/> Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr.<br/> See <a href="http://www.w4aql.com">www.w4aql.com</a><br/> Alexander G. Carver<br/> (404) 894-2936<br/> <a href="mailto:acarver@ece.gatech.edu">acarver@ece.gatech.edu</a></p> | <p><b>First Tuesday</b><br/> Kennehoochee ARC<br/> Downtown Marietta<br/> Fire Station #1, Training Room<br/> 112 Haynes Street<br/> Marietta, Georgia 30060<br/> Meeting begins at 7:00pm<br/> Talk In 146.880(-)</p> <p><b>First Thursday</b><br/> Atlanta Radio Club<br/> Georgia Red Cross HQ<br/> 1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta<br/> Meeting is at 7:30pm<br/> Talk In -146.820(-)<br/> N.E. Georgia ARC<br/> Commerce Public Library<br/> Meeting is at 6:30pm<br/> Talk In - 147.225(+)<br/> PL 123.0</p> <p><b>Second Monday</b><br/> Georgia Tech ARC<br/> Room W218<br/> Van Leer Electrical<br/> Engineering Bldg.<br/> Georgia Tech Campus<br/> Meeting at 7:00pm</p> <p><b>Second Thursday</b><br/> Alford Memorial Radio Club<br/> Annistown Road Baptist Church<br/> Intersection of Annistown Rd &amp; Spain Rd<br/> Stone Mountain<br/> Dinner at 6:00pm<br/> Meeting at 7:30pm<br/> Talk In - 146.760(-)</p> <p><b>Second Saturday</b><br/> North GA QRP Club<br/> Board Room of The<br/> Shepherd Center at<br/> 2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta<br/> at 10:00 AM</p> <p><b>Third Tuesday</b><br/> North Fulton Amateur Radio League<br/> Alpharetta Recreation &amp; Parks Dept<br/> Alpharetta Adult Activity Center<br/> 13450 Cogburn Road<br/> Alpharetta, GA 30004<br/> meeting at 7:30pm<br/> Talk In - 145.47(-)<br/> For more, go to: <a href="http://www.gars.org/">http://www.gars.org/</a></p> |

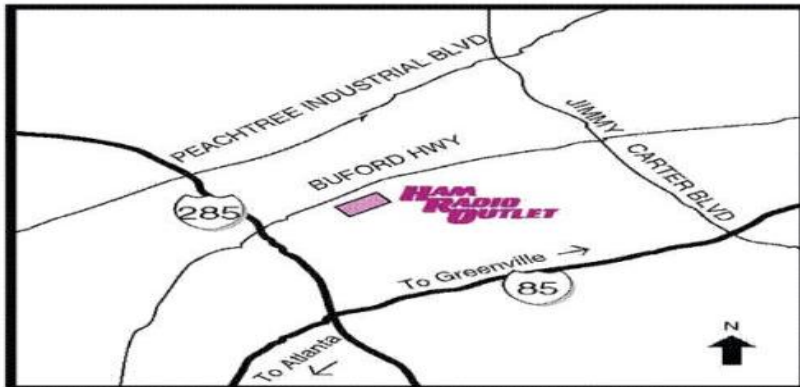
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